

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 29 as follows.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink container comprising:
a housing having a chamber formed therein for receiving ink and a surface including an outlet passage communicating with the chamber and through which ink is dispensed; and
an air impermeable, non-porous seal member received in the outlet passage, said seal member comprising a substantially V-shaped first surface having a first vertex and a substantially V-shaped second surface having a second vertex, wherein said first surface faces away from said second surface, wherein said surfaces are on opposite exterior sides of said member, and said surfaces are adapted to be compressed when said seal member is installed in said outlet passage.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim 1, further comprising a cap member having a through hole and a recess for receiving said outlet passage.
4. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 3, wherein an outer terminal end of said outlet passage comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding said cap to said outlet passage.
5. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 3, wherein said seal is adapted to be linearly compressed between said cap and said outlet passage.

6. (Original) The ink container of claim 3, wherein said cap is formed of plastic.

7. (Original) The ink container of claim 1, wherein said seal member is formed of a rubber.

8. (Original) The ink container of claim 1, wherein the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

9. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein said seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber.

10. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein said seal member is formed of silicone rubber.

11. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 1, wherein said seal member engages an inner wall of said outlet passage.

12. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the seal member includes a ring shaped portion and a thin membrane extending across the first surface of said ring shaped portion ~~seal member~~, said thin membrane adapted to be selectively pierced by an associated needle of an associated printer.

13. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the seal member has a substantially disk shape including a tube shaped portion, said tube shaped portion including said first and second surfaces.

14. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim [[13]] 1 wherein the outlet passage includes a counterbore at an outer terminal end that receives the ~~disk-shaped~~

seal member therein, the first vertex of the first surface extending past the outer terminal end, the second vertex of the second surface engaging an inner wall of the counterbore.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing an outlet port of an ink container, comprising:

inserting a generally annular-shaped seal member into a counterbore of said outlet port formed at an outer terminal end portion of said outlet port, said seal member including first and second opposite facing surfaces;

placing a cap member over said outer portion of said outlet port;

linearly compressing said first and second surfaces of said seal member between said cap and outlet port; and

welding said cap member to said outlet port.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said first and second surfaces of said seal member ~~comprises~~ are substantially V-shaped ~~first and second surfaces~~, wherein said substantially V-shaped surfaces are contacted by said cap member and said outer terminal end portion of said outlet port during compression.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said outlet port comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib on said outer terminal end portion thereof which contacts said cap and is melted via welding until substantially flush with said outer portion.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said second surface of said seal member engages an inner transverse wall of said outlet port.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across an inner periphery of said seal member adjacent a first surface of said seal member.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 21, wherein the seal member has a substantially disk shape including a ring shaped portion extending about a peripheral of the thin membrane.

23. (Currently Amended) A seal member for an ink container, comprising:
a lower surface;
an upper surface located on an opposite side of said seal member from said lower surface, said upper surface facing away from said lower surface;
an outer sidewall extending between said lower and upper surfaces, said sidewall having a single tapered surface extending between and connecting said lower surface and said upper surface, wherein said upper surface has a larger diameter than said lower surface;
wherein said seal member has a substantially disk shape;
wherein said lower and upper surfaces each comprises a raised portion extending across said surfaces.

24. (Previously Presented) The said member of claim 23, wherein said upper and lower surfaces are substantially V-shaped.

25. (Original) The seal member of claim 23, wherein said seal member is formed of a rubber.

26. (Original) The seal member of claim 23, wherein the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

27. (Original) The seal member of claim 23 wherein said seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber.

28. (Previously Presented) The seal member of claim 23 wherein the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across said lower surface of said seal member.

29. (Currently Amended) The seal member of claim 23 wherein said upper and lower surfaces, said tapered outer sidewall and an inner sidewall of the seal member together form a generally toroidal-shaped portion.